

University of Dundee

COVID-19 and Divided States of Europe

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Publication date:
2021

Document Version
Other version

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Ota, K. (2021, Jan 11). COVID-19 and Divided States of Europe: Sino-European Relationship after the Covid-19 Pandemic and the EU's attempt to re-evaluate the Sino-European relation.

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COVID-19 and Divided States of Europe

Sino-European Relationship after the Covid-19 Pandemic
and the EU's attempt to re-evaluate the Sino-European relation

Keiko Ota

Doctoral Research in
Politics and International Relations





Yes or No ?

- Did the Covid-19 Pandemic alter the trajectory of EU-China Relations?



How?

- How does above policy influence Sino-European industrial relations?
- As for the trade of states' strategic sectors and import of basic goods, do member states shift for a protection from China as advised by the EU, or welcome Chinese goods and investments to recover from the recession?







Gain or Lose?

- Does China gain or lose political influence over Europe in the aftermath of the Covid-19?

Doctoral Research presentation

Background : Covid-19 as of today (11 Jan. 2021)

11 Jan. 2021

	Infected	Casualty	Population	Ratio	
	85,929,428	1,876,100	7.8 b	1.1%	 World Health Organization
	97,217	4,795	1.393b	0.0069%	
	16,139,574	389,333	446 m	36,18%	

The declaration of Pandemic:
Zoonotic spillover:
Possible Causes:

11th March 2020

2-3 times higher (c.f. 40 years ago)

200 events / annual

Increase in population, Density in metropolises, Expansion into wildlife area

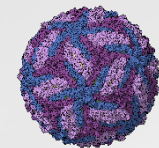
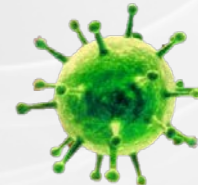
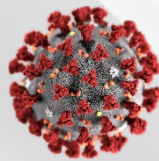
Examples: SARS(2003)

HINI Swine Flu(2009)

MERS(2012)

Ebola(2014)

ZIKA(2016)



- **Karl Marx (1848)** Globalization = An inevitable product of capitalism
 - **Nye & Keohane (1997)** Complex interdependence theory
 - > Reduction of war and disruptive measurements
 - > Reconciliation via negotiations
- ↕
- **Covid-19 pandemic** A negative product of globalism under the complex interdependence
- ↕
- ***Do states move away from the complex interdependence?***



Pre-existing difficulties

- Rising Production Costs
- Growing Tariff Pressure
- Intellectual Properties
- Slow down of Domestic Economy
- Oversupply of Domestic Investment
- World's dependency on Chinese manufacturing (E.g. Over half of masks produced in China)



Lesson from 2008 Crisis

- Accelerated PRC Investments by SOEs & Joint-Venture with European firms
- Chinese FDI 37% ↑ (2008-15)
200b USD (2005-2016)



Pre-existing difficulties

- Western Value under pressure (US Trump, Brexit, China/Russia)
- Capitalism, globalization, multi-institutionalism, advocacy of democracy
- Complex & Contradictory :
Public: PRC as employment threat
Business Elites/ Some Gvmnts: PRC as an opportunity due to investment flow



- **China's motivation for further Oversea Investment**
The Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) & New Silk Road
- Infrastructure Projects (Ports, Trains, Real estate) & High Value Added Area (Robotics, Chemical, Semiconductor etc.) while increasing influence in 5G/AI

- **Walking away from PRC?**
- China + one location (Western Balkan, Africa)
- Causes European Business less competitive? (Reduction of manufacturing technique, reduce inventory & idol moments, Worker's knowhow)

Doctoral Research presentation

Literature Review: Pre Covid19 / Sino-European Relations

11 Jan. 2021

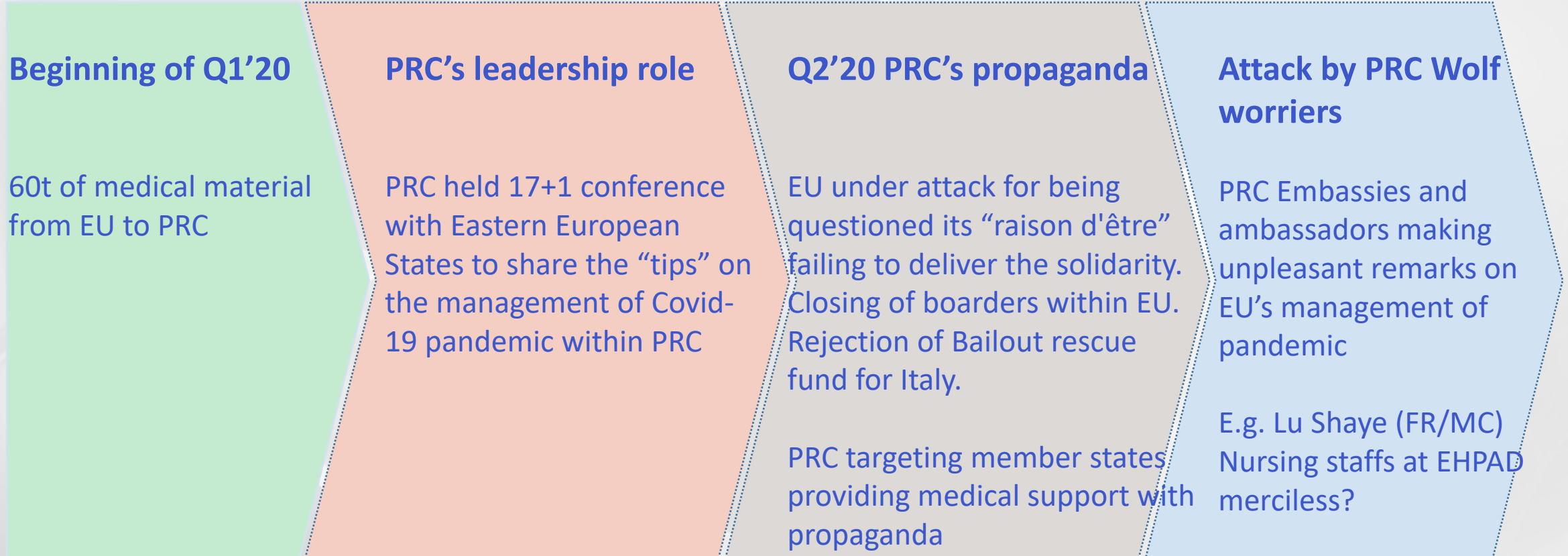
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
			
Period	Before 2003 Beginning	2003-2005 Honeymoon	2006-2009 PRC's disappointment
Relation Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Till 1975, Multilateral basis➤ 1898 Tiananmen➤ Late 1990s modernization attempt by EU➤ 2001 PRC WTO➤ Deng Xiao Ping's 5 Principles of Peaceful Co-existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ EU's attempt to political integrate PRC internationally➤ 2003 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with PRC➤ PRC's demand: One China Policy, Non interference into its domestic matters (Taiwan, Tibet etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Growing responsibility (Sensitive issues: Technology)➤ 2008-09 European leaders meeting with Dalai-Lama➤ 11th EU China Summit canceled➤ 2008 Financial Crisis (EU sovereign debt crisis)➤ EU becomes more accommodating to PRC➤ 2005 Not lifting Arms Export Ban➤ Beijing not accorded Market economy status

	Phase 4 	Phase 5 
Period	2010-2015	2016 onwards
Relation Status	PRC's Tactics <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2014-15 Solar Panel Conflict (Anti-dumping)➤ PRC's well targeted probe on wine & threat to regulate luxury cars from EU➤ Turned Germany against EU Commission➤ Berlin as a proxy Brussel	PRC's Assertiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Eroding Confidence with Brexit & Trump➤ EU needs PRC's engagements in international community➤ Fear of Sino-Russian Strategic Alignment (2014 Crimea)➤ PRC's objective as plurilateral parallel orders (2016 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank / C.f. ADB) ->The most influential decision making as Business➤ EU: a polity <i>Sui Generis</i> : EU's different qualities of incoherence & inconsistency from what appears in national and foreign policies Instrumental asymmetry -> In favor for PRC➤ 2020: 27 European heads were to meet PRC for the first time in Leipzig (Huawei 5G network, cyber security etc.) Mere strategic Partner -> Economic Competitor 1.7b Euro trade a year. China as the EU's 2nd bigger trading partner

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Literature Review: Pre Covid19 / Sino-European Relations

11 Jan. 2021



Pro-PRC

Eg. IT, ES, GR, CZ, BZ, AT, SRB

Anti-PRC

Doctoral Research presentation

Literature Review: From Covid19 / Sino-European Relation

11 Jan. 2021

PRC->Member states

- BRI & New Silk Road Project
- M&A, Looking for a bargain
- Propaganda to divide EU, increase of Political power over South/Eastern Europe

Member states ->PRC

- Different Interests
- Investment to reinstate its affected economy

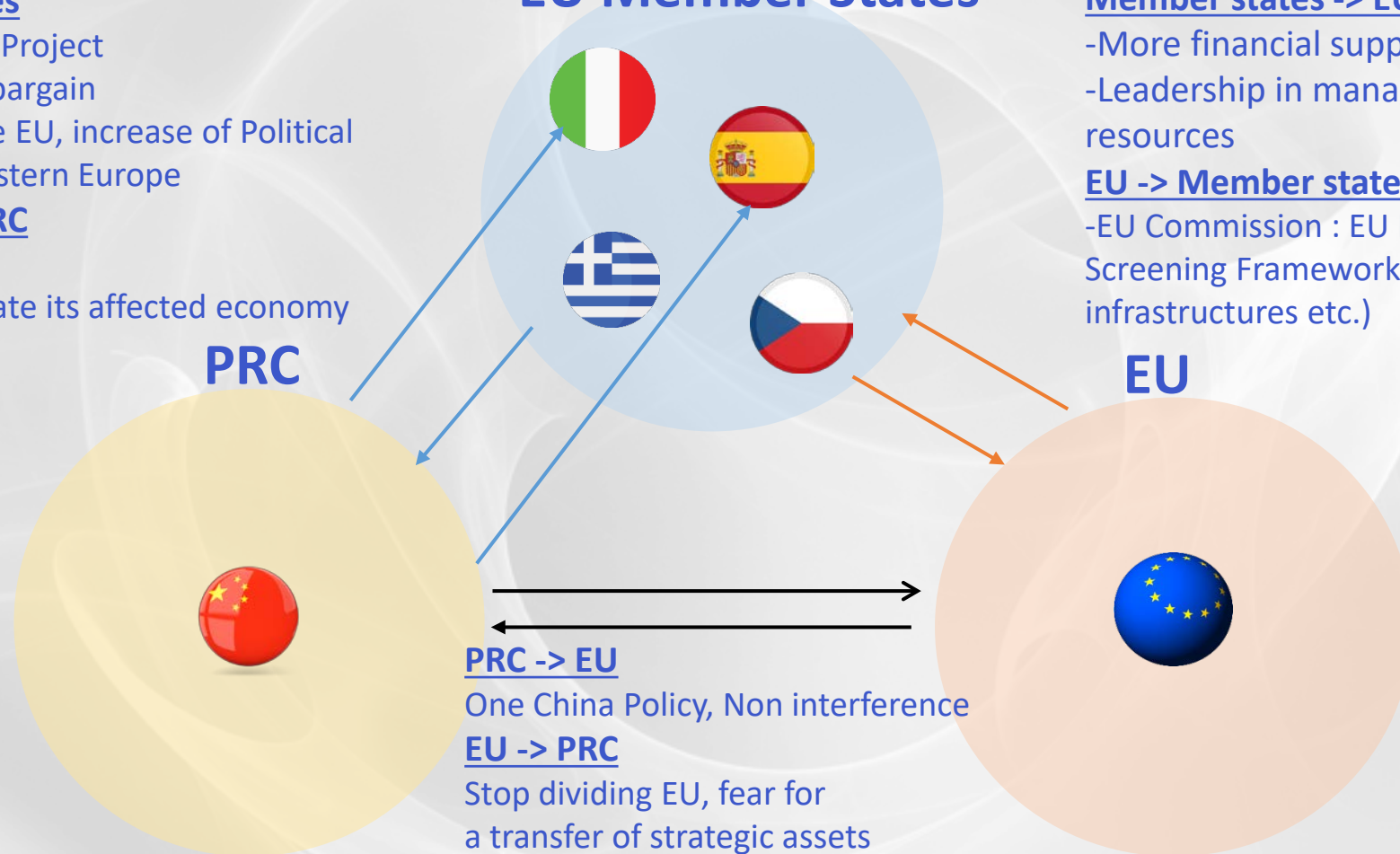
EU Member States

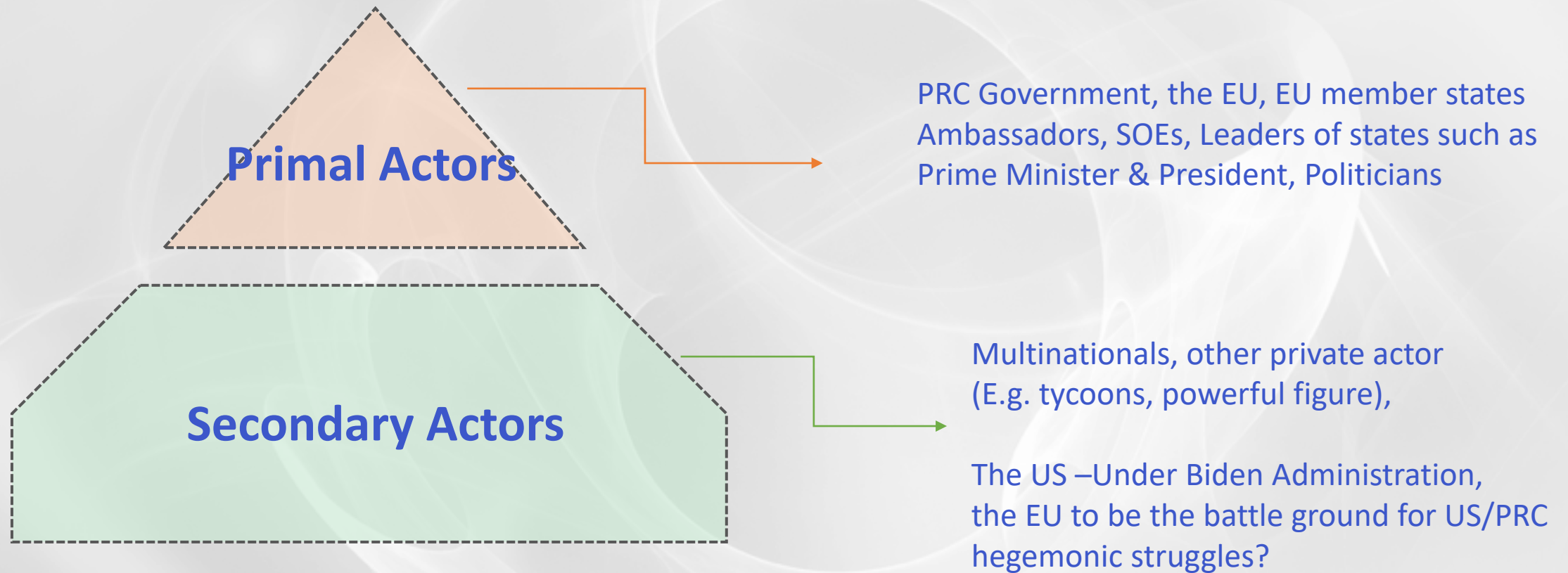
Member states -> EU

- More financial support and unity
- Leadership in managing crisis & resources

EU -> Member states

- EU Commission : EU Investment Screening Framework (5G network, AI, infrastructures etc.)





Quantitative

- Observation of Secondary Data
- Governmental websites, Multilateral organization's website (E.g. WHO)

Qualitative

- Policy papers, journals, academic papers, Research actors (un)official remarks, such as via social media (twitter etc.)



Why? Causal Explanation

- To bridge gaps, **Semi-structured Interview** via Zoom to international policy elites (E.g. PRC officials working in EU embassies)

Hypothesis

- ❖ No theory : Unprecedented event of Pandemic
- ❖ No need for a hypothesis? Open end research?
- ❖ EU takes firmer stance towards PRC
- ❖ Avoiding heavy reliance on PRC's FDI or supplies (Roles of DE/FR)?
- ❖ Enlarged Divide between North & South/Eastern member states?
- ❖ Complex Interdependence will continue to last with some frameworks to avoid an excess?



Anticipated Difficulties

1 : Due to unprecedented and on-going Pandemic,
not enough information / data available?

-> *Semi-Structured interview to bridge*

2 : How to determine if the pandemic is **the solo cause of the phenomenon** in the highly complex and interdependent international political arena today?



Research Ethics

- ❖ Research Integrity Online Training
- ❖ Research Degrees Quality Code 2020/21
- ❖ Research Postgraduate Training Guide 2020/21



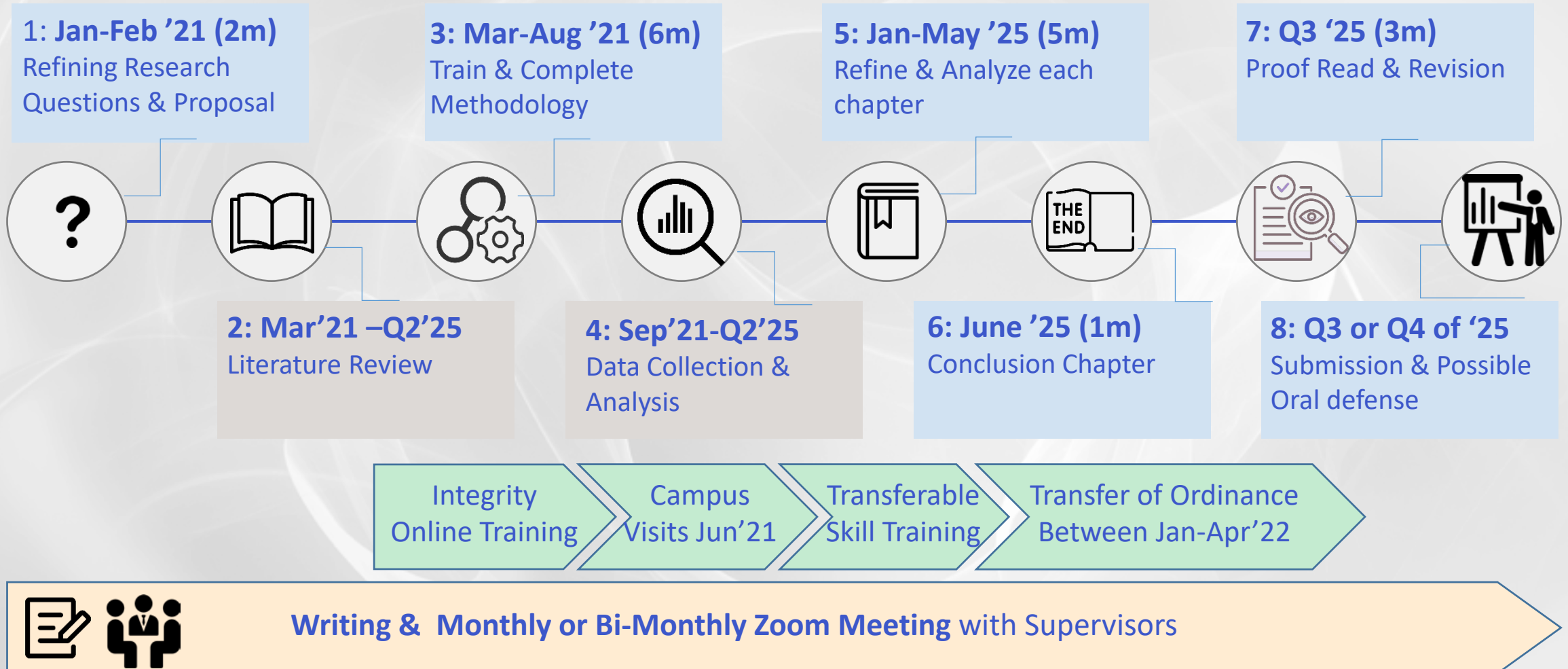
Training Needs Assessment (TNA)

1. **Research technique, Methodology**
 - ❖ Research Designs and Project Planning, Quantitative/Qualitative methods in Social Research
2. **Publishing**, understanding of the research impact beyond academic
3. Undertaking two weeks of **transferable skills training** per year? (PhD Handbook 2020/21)

Doctoral Research presentation

Research : Schedule

11 Jan. 2021





Thank you !

As for the source/reference of data and information mentioned on this PowerPoint,
Please kindly refer to the late page of my written PhD proposal.